



Village of Savoy  
Savoy Municipal Center  
611 North Dunlap Avenue, Savoy, IL 61874

**MINUTES OF**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

DATE: April 19, 2016

PLACE: Savoy Municipal Center  
611 North Dunlap Avenue  
Savoy, IL 61874

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Chairman Garry Herzog  
Jim Sinclair  
Jim Miller  
Jack Franklin  
Scott Lutz

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:**

Todd Jacob  
Scott Henderson

**TRUSTEES, OFFICERS, AND STAFF PRESENT:**

Dick Helton, Manager  
Dan Davies, Zoning Administrator  
Dennis Donaldson, Director of Planning & Economic Development  
Kim Leese, Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk

**GUESTS:**

Craig Rost, Champaign County EDC-Executive Director  
Charles Patel, Paradise Best Western  
Julia Leatherwood, County Star

**CONVENED: 12:15 p.m.**

**CONCLUDED: 12:57 p.m.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER, QUORUM DECLARED**

Garry Herzog called the meeting of the Economic Development Commission to order at 12:15 p.m. and a quorum was declared.

**II. MINUTES OF MEETING**

Jack Franklin made a motion to pass the January 19, 2016 minutes; seconded by Jim Miller.  
**All were in favor and the January 19, 2016 minutes were passed unanimously.**

**III. BEST WESTERN UPDATE (TIF)**

Dick Helton reviewed the first phase remodel of the Best Western Paradise Inn that previously used TIF funds to complete. Charles Patel reviewed the plans for the second phase of the

remodel, which includes new rooms and an indoor swimming pool. Patel explained the pool would help make them more competitive with other area hotels. Patel also said he has spent an additional \$100,000 after Phase I, but before Phase II to update rooms, per a Best Western corporate request. Patel stated they will also have a new sign by the end of the month. The formal TIF request, with necessary paperwork, will be distributed for the next meeting.

#### **IV. HONDA/BMW UPDATE**

Dick Helton explained staff has been working with the new owner of Honda/BMW concerning a tax rebate incentive. Helton explained it is performance driven and if they close/move before five years, they will have to repay Savoy the incentive money back.

#### **V. SPECIAL CENSUS UPDATE**

Dennis Donaldson reviewed the Census schedule as it has been explained to him. Donaldson said he will update the commissioners when he receives the letter. Donaldson stated Savoy will receive the funds from the new census information approximately one month after the certification letter is received.

#### **VI. SAVOY PLAZA UPDATE**

Dennis Donaldson said there were three vacancies at Savoy Plaza. Donaldson explained a restaurant will go in the space where Babyland was located. In the old Ascend Pilates location, a couple of trainers will take the space. Donaldson explained this leaves one open spot at the Savoy Plaza.

#### **VII. QUALITY OF LIFE UPDATE**

Dennis Donaldson explained he did not receive any additional feedback from commissioners since the January meeting. Donaldson explained he welcomes any suggestions as to what is important for this section on the Village of Savoy website. Donaldson reminded commissioners to let him know if they have input. Later in the meeting, Jim Sinclair suggested there be something about how fast homes sell.

#### **VIII. SAVOY BUSINESS CO-OP UPDATE**

Dennis Donaldson explained the name has been changed to Savoy Business Co-Op. The new web site address is gosavoy.com, and the group is looking for a web site that will host their domain. Donaldson explained officers have been chosen for the group.

Donaldson said 148 letters were sent to business owners, personally signed by President McCleary and Dick Helton for an open house meeting to discuss the co-op. Donaldson said eight business owners/representative were present for the open house.

#### **IX. SPECIAL EVENT FORM**

Donaldson handed out the special events form. He explained the form will be used by persons/groups wanting to receive funds from Savoy to hold a special event in Savoy. The request will be reviewed by staff and the funds will be approved by the Board of Trustees. It is Donaldson's hope that by having this opportunity it will bring people to Savoy to generate sales tax dollars.

#### **X. OTHER**

- Colbert Park-new benches, handmade from Ash trees infected with the Emerald Ash Borer, have been installed.

- Arbor Day is April 29. Staff will email the tree planting ceremony date/time to Commissioners.
- Craig Rost suggested a discussion at the next meeting concerning the Champaign County EDC Economic Impact Study draft document for Willard Airport. Also, Rost suggested Gene Cossey, Airport Manager, present the EIS.

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#### **XI. ADJOURN**

**There being no further business to come before the Economic Development Commission, Jack Franklin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim Sinclair. Chairperson Herzog adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Leese, Administrative Assistant/Deputy Clerk

This meeting was taped.